

"I AM THE WAY."

BY LAVILLE D. LONDON.

Some will tell thee to take this road,
And some will tell thee to take another,
If thou wouldst reach the Lord's abode;
But that's no proof of the right, my brother.

Trust not thy path to any hand,
Unless thou find that the human telling
Points thee on toward the "better land"
In Christ's own way to the Father's dwelling.

Trust not what someone else may think,
A road that ends in the world of beauty;
Go to the Word of God thyself,
Wouldst thou be sure thou hast found thy duty.

Selected for Brethren Evangelist, by Mary Dietz.

Essays and Contributions.**CHRISTIAN UNITY.**

BY MARY DIETZ.

Methinks if Christ was on this earth today he would do just as he did when he was here, because he understood the future. If he had meant his followers to do any different from the discipline which he gave his disciples certainly he would have laid down a new and popular discipline to suit the modern times—as some are wont to say. Christ spake much in parables. See Mark iv, 34. [revised version]

But *privately*, to his own disciples, he expounded all things. Christ's words spoken to his disciples, when alone with them, come to us more powerful and clear, than any part of the Bible, excepting when he was alone with God. See great commission Matt. xxviii, 19-20. Have we any right to magnify or underrate any of the priceless words in these two verses? Hear Christ telling his chosen ones, once for all, how to make of the greatest sinners disciples of himself. Because all Christian professors do claim adherence to those verses and yet differ so widely, is no proof that Christ did not intend the fullest meaning in them to be sought for and claimed.

Christians are crying for unity. How can it be brought about? Christ says in his prayer, John. xvii, 8. "For the words which thou gavest me I have given unto them and they received them, etc." Verse xiv. "I have given them thy word." Verses xvii and xviii, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou didst send me into the world even so sent I them into the world." In 2 Tim. iii, xiii. Paul says "If we are faithless

yet he remaineth faithful, for he cannot deny himself."

How can we ever expect Christian unity, blessed by God, only by all meeting in simple childlike faith, and in obedience to Christ's words. God speed the day when all will work unselfishly for Christ; when accepting Christianity will always mean an honest believer, ready to do all he knows, and when clearer light and knowledge dawns, grasp it at once, accepting Christ's guiding hand, allowing man made creeds and theories to flee forever.

Many more people will love us if we can make ourselves and our friends believe all is well whether living according to Christ's teaching or not, making it appear that we can change the truth by disbelieving it and save their souls in like manner. But in so doing we are really their enemies, as we wrong ourselves and humanity. It may be suggested that there would not be so much good done if it were not for the strife. Those striving to win souls into a church with any other except purpose to make them better and purer for Christ, will not be blessed for doing when the great book of life is opened.

Our selfish motives alone, are only as chaff. We need not say that no one will be saved but ourselves, as we have no control over that part of God's work, but must leave his words to do the judging in the last day. John xii, 48.

If the ways of others are not as we think they should be we need not refuse to mingle with them and wrap ourselves in the mantle of selfrighteousness. No, a thousand times, no. The Christ spirit is to love our enemies; then certainly we must love sinners, and professors whose ways do not agree with Christ's teaching. Love *all* their souls—not their erring ways. And when the opportunity is presented tell them kindly, and firmly, why we hope in Christ in his own words.

There will be one great step taken toward unity when the world understands that faith and works go together, and will be inseparable, when God comes to make up his jewels for his heavenly kingdom. James says "Faith apart from works is dead." And we, certainly believe works apart from

faith is refused by God. Oh, let us have both, and no one-sided christianity. How could we be placed in God's great impartial balance, and found nothing wanting if we grow up one-sided? Satan would be pleased, and is ready any time to hold down one side the balance and do it so craftily that the natural, unsuspecting eye can easily be deceived. But there is a time coming when satan will not be prince of this world; a time when he will be ruled out. Then we will see if the tempter has been crouching in our lamps; or if we have them filled with oil; or if we have the oil and no lamp. Although we know our works of righteousness alone can never save us, yet we know there is a work for us to do, and that doing it imperfectly will not make it more acceptable with God. Let us make an effort to do all Christ would have his followers do, in *his name*, giving God *all* the praise. When we are searching for God's will concerning us in his book, let us set apart especially the parts of the Gospel that agree with the general tenor of Christ's teaching. Taking for example humility, Matt. xi, 29, Christ's great peculiar characteristic spoken of so much. Reading how many places he and his disciples tell his followers that, "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke xiv, 11; Matt. x, 24; Matt. xx, 27, 28; Matt. xxiii, 11, 12; James iv, 6, 10; 1 Pet. v, 5, 6; Phillipians ii, 7, 8, 9; Luke xx, 27; Matt. xviii, 4; Matt. x, 38; St. John xii, 26; 1 Pet. ii, 21. Read of humility all along down to St. John xiii, 1-18.

When Christ took of his precious time, his last hours, to set *us* an example. Showing us how we should ingraft this very essential trait of Christian character into our minds, hearts and lives. To gain the promised blessing, and call us back from the cares, and perplexities of this life, fitting us for living lives every day corresponding with the observance of washing the saints feet. Oh, that this might be impressed more fully on every Christian heart, so that the world need not be told we profess religion, but that the Christ spirit may fill us with holy zeal and love for Christ and his work.

Again, for unity, what did Christ